FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 DECEMBER 1985

Egyptian-Israeli Relations

Israel has for the first time expressed willingness to hold serious discussions about the possibility of arbitration over the Tabah dispute, according to a source "close to the delegations" in Cairo cited by Jerusalem radio. The source said the next round of talks, in Israel next week, will focus on arbitration, including the selection of arbiters and other legal formulations. Nevertheless, the source noted that Israel has made no commitment on arbitration, the radio said, and the head of the Israeli delegation likewise stressed that the two sides did not reach any agreement about arbitration during their talks in Cairo. The leader of the Egyptian delegation said the talks were "useful and constructive," Cairo radio reported.

In a separate development, Cairo radio cited Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's denial in a *WASHINGTON POST* interview that the United States and Israel are pressuring Egypt to use the recent hijacking as an excuse to attack Libya.

Tunisia

Poland and Tunisia have decided to intensify trade exchanges and conclude a 5-year trade agreement starting in January 1986, according to a joint communique broadcast by Tunis radio following Polish leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski's visit to Tunisia.

Sudan

The "sudden reappearance" of 'Abdallah Zakariyah, coordinator of the pro-Libyan Sudanese Revolutionary Committees, was reported by MENA, which noted that Zakariyah's claim that he had not been kidnapped conflicted with statements by his wife.

Iran

Iran will not host any negotiations concerning the fate of the French hostages in Lebanon, the Majlis public relations office announced in a statement reported by IRNA, adding that France should try to solve this issue in Lebanon itself.

In domestic issues, the Council of Guardians vetoed a press bill passed by the Majlis, urging the latter to make revisions and asserting that the bill contradicts Islamic law, freedom of the press, and the constitution, IRNA revealed.

DRA-Pakistan

BAKHTAR carried further reports denouncing the Pakistani military operation in the Khyber area and lauding the resistance of the local tribesmen. The DRA also informed Pakistan of Afghanistan's "anxiety and profound concern" over Pakistani troop movements in the tribal border areas, according to Kabul radio.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Sri Lankan President Arrives in Dhaka for Summit

BK051329 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Excerpt] President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka arrived in Dhaka today to attend the first SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit beginning on Saturday next. He was accompanied by his wife. The Sri Lanka president is the first head of state of the region to arrive in the capital. The other heads of state and government are expected tomorrow.

The Sri Lankan president was received at the Zia International Airport by Bangladesh President H.M. Ershad and Mrs Raushan Ershad.

Dhaka Reports on SARC Ministers' 5 Dec Meeting

BK051639 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] The SARC foreign ministers today discussed the overall preparations for the first summit and reviewed the activities under the integrated program of action. A conference spokesman told newsmen at the end of their day-long fourth meeting that a spirit of understanding and friendship marked the deliberations. This, he said, augured well for the success of the forthcoming summit meeting of the seven member countries beginning on Saturday. They expressed confidence that the summit will open a new era of friendship and cooperation among the countries of the region. The spokesman said the foreign ministers covered a number of grounds and recommended the proposed agenda for the summit. They also endorsed the draft declaration of the summit, the Charter, and the emblem of the proposed South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. These will be adopted by the summit leaders.

The ministers reviewed the world economic situation and expressed deep concern at the deteriorating socioeconomic conditions of the developing countries. In this context, they mentioned lingering issues like reduction in concessional lendings, trade protectionism, lack of progress in the North-South dialogue, and nonexecution of the substantial new program of action for the least developed countries. The issue of superpower summit in Geneva also figured in the discussions. They also decided that separate groups of experts should discuss problems and recommend remedies on drug trafficking and drug abuse and international terrorism. The ministers recommended that the chairman of the summit may decide on the question of next summit of the heads of state and government.

In the morning session, in keeping with the normal practice, the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, was named the chairman of the fourth meeting. Taking over the office of the new chairman, the Bangladesh foreign minister emphasized the need for exploring the possibilities of further expansion in the areas of cooperation. They also endorsed the idea of setting up a program committee to examine the scope and extent of regional programs and projects. Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury suggested that the possibility of the setting up of the SARC Secretariat at an appropriate time may be (? explored). The foreign ministers of the other six member countries presented reports of their countries. In their reports, they dwelt at length on the different aspects of regional cooperation and suggested ways and means to further expand its areas of activity. It was felt that the fostering of greater cooperation among member states would help reduce mutual tension and lead to economic prosperity.

Indian Foreign Minister Praises SARC Achievements

BK051433 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Bali Ram Bhagat, has called for an expansion of SARC activities to include hardcore sectors of development like energy, trade, and industry. Speaking at the fourth meeting of the SARC foreign ministers, which began in Dhaka today, he said this is necessary to tap the vast potential of cooperation in the region. He said despite the spurt in activities under SARC, we should not forget that our achievements are still very modest and only a beginning has been made toward fulfledged regional cooperation. He, however, pointed out that despite the late start it is a matter of satisfaction that during the last 2 years SARC has been able to undertake cooperation in as many as nine areas.

Mr Bhagat expressed the hope that the first SARC summit beginning on Saturday will give a solid institutional base to the movement and provide it with the impetus to function more effectively. With the convening of the summit, Mr Bhagat said SARC will enter a new phase altogether. He said it is a realization of a dream for which so many have worked hard.

Stressing the need for institution like SARC in the present international situation, a region with tension and conflicts, Mr Bhagat said it is the imperative need of the nations of this region to pool their resources to solve their problems. He said the SARC has already started fostering the habit of cooperation and has created a climate in which solutions can be found not only for common economic problems but also bilateral and political ones. The regional cooperation, he said, is an important step in the common struggle for improving the lot of our people and establishing a world order based on equity, justice, and fairplay.

The foreign ministers of the seven South Asian countries met for about 4 hours this morning. They exchanged views on the declaration and a Charter for SARC which was earlier prepared and endorsed by the standing committee of the foreign secretaries. The documents will be formally placed for approval by the leaders of these countries at their 2 day summit beginning on Saturday.

AFP: SARC Meeting to Examine Drug Abuse, Terrorism

HK051036 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 5 (AFP) — The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SARC) to be formally launched here this weekend will look into the twin threats of drug abuse and international terrorism, official sources said today.

A call to take up the two issues as areas of common concern to member countries, was made today by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury at the opening of a pre-summit conference of South Asian Foreign ministers.

His call was supported by ministers from other member states: Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Mr. Choudhury, chairman of the conference, said that drug abuse, which used to be the bane of industrialized countries, was now menacing developing countries, while international terrorism was something from which no country was absolutely safe.

He urged his SARC partners to cooperate in fighting "increasing instances of drug trafficking" and in "strenghtening security in our region against this ever-present threat of terrorism."

The foreign ministers are to finalise the draft declaration and a Charter for the SARC, already prepared by host Bangladesh, for final approval by the summit leaders this weekend.

The declaration will express the common concern of South Asian countries on regional and international issues while the Charter will set out the principles and objectives of the seven-nation organisation.

Indian Foreign Minister Bali Ram Bhagat, who also spoke in today's morning session, said the SARC spirit of cooperation would "facilitate the solution of not on!y our common economic problems, but also our political problems."

In a declaration adopted at the last foreign ministers' conference in 1983, the member countries agreed that decisions at all levels should be made on the basis of unanimity and that bilateral and contentious issues should be excluded from the deliberations.

Mr. Bhagat wanted the association to tackle some of the major areas of development, such as trade, industry, energy and environment.

So far the SARC nations have confined their cooperation to sectors such as agriculture, meteorology, transport, health, population, science and technology, telecommunications, sports and culture.

Mr. Bhagat also said the full potential of regional cooepration would not be realised until the hard core sectors of development were brought within the association's ambit.

Babrak Karmal Chairs Politburo Session 5 Dec

LD060745 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Kabul, December 5, BAKHTAR — A session of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA was held here today under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

Improving the level of drafting and recruitment and combat preparedness of the armed forces, the promotion of the vocational and political level of the servicemen were [words indistinct].

At the session and necessary directives were given to the concerned authorities. [sentence as received]

Similarly, the Politburo assessed the activity of party [words indistinct] organisation of the Ministry of Finance and necessary instructions were given for enhancing the role of party members for the realisation of the decision of the 16th Plenum of the PDPA CC. Some matters ralating to domestic and foreign policy were also assessed at the session.

Pakistani Charge Summoned, Protest Filed on Troops

LD051729 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] By embarking on troop movements, including tanks, armored vehicles and heavy weapons, the militarist regime of Pakistan has recently exerted pressure and besieged the borders — in particular the independent regions of (Afridi) and Shenwari. Contrary to the customs and historic and national traditions of the courageous tribes of the independent regions, the military regime of Pakistan has recklessly embarked on destruction, aggression, and interference in the tribal regions, burning and destroying villages, hamlets, houses and mosques, and has stationed a noticeable number of its military forces near the borders of the DRA.

Therefore, the charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul today at 1530 was summoned to the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The anxiety and profound concern of the DRA Government regarding the troop movements and its continuation by the Government of Pakistan was mentioned to him, and the attention of the military Government of Pakistan was drawn to the unpleasant consequence of this provocative action.

'Severe' Clashes Reported

LD060713 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Kabul, December 5, BAKHTAR — Severe armed clashes have occurred between the aggressive forces of Pakistani military regime and the valorous people of Khyber tribes, reports reaching here from Khyber region says.

According to unconfirmed reports, 16 soldiers of the military regime have been killed as a result of the resistance shown by khyber tribes.

Due to restrictions and military siege, the accurate figure of the human and material losses is not available yet but a number of crowded people are seen at the scene.

The Army of Pakistan which is in fact the U.S. mercenaries despite the availability of cannons, tanks and heavy weapons have failed in breaking the strong fortifications of the brave people of Khyber region.

Political observers of Peshawar believe that Punjabi army with ignominy will be forced to retreat from Khyber region.

Addressing a grand meeting, Malek Wali Khan Kuki Khel, a brave leaders of Pashtun free tribes, have decisively rejected the demand of Pakitsani military government on surrendering the tribal chiefs to the Pakistani authorities.

Earlier, the military regime had warned Malek Wali Khan Kuki Khel and other Pashtun leaders to give themselves up to the mercenaries of the region in 24 hours.

Malek Wali Khan Kuki Khel declared that the Pashtun free tribes are ready to make very sacrifice for defending their soil, freedom, their honour and traditions. He asked for the immediate withdrawal of aggressive forces from Khyber region. He also referred in his [words indistinct] to the historical friendship and brotherhood existing between the free tribes and the revolutionary people of Afghanistan.

A great movement in support of the valorous people of Khyber region and in condemnation of the brutalities of Islamabad regime throughout the free tribes are in progress.

BAKHTAR Commentary

LD060726 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Kabul, December 5, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

Free tribes of Khyber bravely resist against the brutal invasion of the Army of Pakistani military regime.

Islamabad military regime have sent several thousand of Punjabi mercenary soldiers who are equipped with American weapons including tanks, armoured vehicles and heavy weapons for crushing the valiant Afridi and Shinwar tribes at Khyber region. The soldiers and ammunition are also sent there as the authorities of Islamabad [words indistinct] regime have impudently stated for demolishing the houses, usurpation of the lands and for making the Pashtun tribes to surrender.

Right now, the Khyber region, the houses, mosques, hamlets and the shops of the people there are under the siege of the aggressive [words indistinct] of Islamabad.

The reports reaching here say that the military regime has cut off the arrival of the foodstuffs and the primary goods to the region, has closed the linking routes and intends to drown the valorous Pashtun in blood.

This brutal action of the military regime runs counter to the traditional freedom, customs and traditions of the free tribes.

The report says that the aggressive action of Islamabad regime waged against the peaceful and freedom-loving people of Khyber are even now faced with ignominious defeat. Thousands of militias who had been sent for crushing the resistance of Khyber region refused from opening fire against their brothers and expressed their sympathy and solidarity with the people of Khyber region.

The free tribes want to safeguard their traditional and accepted freedom. They also ask for the immediate cessation of the inteventions of Islamabad regime into the [words indistinct] free tribes.

Also, they demand their homeland must not be used as the springboard of aggression and the undeclared war against their national and historical brothers in the DRA.

In sum, let them to live in peace and security and not to make them the victims of the Satanic and bellicose plots of the U.S. imperialism in the region.

The heroic people of Khyber, Afridi and Shinwar are enjoying the fraternal solidarity of all free tribes ranging from Chatral to [words indistinct] as well as the fraternal solidarity of the revolutionary people of Afghanistan.

Islamabad regime has resorted to a dangerous gambling in which it will not be a winner and the fire which it has flarred up will eventually burn itself.

New Head of State Information Service Appointed

LD051620 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] In accordance with the approval of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, Major General Ghulan Faruq Yaqubi, has been appointed head of the State Information Services.

BAKHTAR Political Observer on Afghan-Soviet Ties

LD060844 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Kabul, December 5, BAKHTAR — a Political Observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The people of Afghanistan are marking the seventh anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship, Good-Neighbourliness and Cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

On the Fifth of December 1978, the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the two fraternal countries was concluded as the continuation of the friendly principles enshrined in the treaties of 1921 and 1931.

The treaty of Dec 5, 1978 was signed in the new revolutionary conditions and elevated the traditional friendship of the peoples of the two countries to a new qualitative stage of fraternal relation.

The positive and fruitful effects of the Afghan-Soviet friendship and cooperation, which got new qualitative dimensions with the signing of the treaty of fifth December, is vividly manifested in political and economic life of our country. Since the very dawn of the time when our country regained its political independence, the principles of peace, friendship, cooperation, militant solidarity and observing the national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of each other were clearly manifested in the relations between the peoples of the two countries.

The people of the Soviet Union with the high sense of humanism, peace and internationalism stood firmly beside the Afghan people in their just and righteous struggle against the British colonialists [words indistinct] the ensurance of their political independence. Right now the Soviet people are standing beside their Afghan brothers in the latter's struggle to repulse the imperialist foreign aggression.

At the very difficult moments when the question of to be or not to be of Afghanistan was at stake due to the imperialist aggressive schemes, the country of Soviets as the true and traditional friend of the Afghan people, helped our country to preserve its independence and national sovereignty vis-a-vis the intrigues of the misanthropic enemies. This help was in full conformity with the Article [figure indistinct] of the Treaty of Friendship, good-neighborliness, and cooperation (5 Dec 1978) and Article 51 of the UN charter.

The U.S. imperialism, whose plan of invading Afghanistan was nipped in the bud, has launched a broad based undeclared war alongside a psychological warfare campaign against our country to distort the existing realities and the traditional Afghan-Soviet friendship. They, moreover, imposed an economic embargo on the DRA.

In such conditions, without the all-sided assistance of the great Soviet Union to the DRA, the ill effects of the imperialist undeclared war on our country would have been much greater and severe. With the help and disinterested assistance of the Soviet Union, our people are confidently forging ahead on their chosen path.

The assistance of the Soviet Union have played a magnificant role in the economic development of the DRA. The construction work of about 190 projects have begun in the DRA with the Soviet assistance. As a whole the output of these projects constitute 60 percent of the entire industrial products of our country.

The valorous Afghan people take pride in their friendship with the Soviet Union and will never forget the vital effects of the Soviet help for the construction of a new and prosperous Afghanistan.

The founding stone of the Afghan-Soviet friendship, which successfully came out of the [words indsitinct] of time, is firmly based on the principles of peace, mutual respect and the two countries common struggle for peace and the well-being of mankind.

Punjab Governor Apprises Gandhi of Local Situation
BK051629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] The Punjab governor, Dr Shaker Dayal Sharma, met the prime minister in New Delhi today. He is understood to have apprised Mr Gandhi of the political situation in the state. This was Mr Sharma's first meeting with the prime minister after assuming the charge of governor of Punjab.

Bhagat Says Sikhs Training in Western Canada
BK041017 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed that India has drawn the attention of the Canadian Government to the reports about the training received by Sikh youths in a terrorist training school in the country. In a written reply, the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, said the government is aware of the existence of a school in New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada. India has asked for urgent investigation, sharing of information, and corrective action.

Mr Bhagat said that the Canadian authorities are investigating into the operation of the school. The minister pointed out that the justice minister of Canada had stated in parliament that the Eagle Combat and Bodyguard Training School was apparently providing self-defense and related training to the public. It is operating under the municipal license and there is no indication of any criminal offenses being committed in the school. The Canadian Government has further clarified that there is nothing in the Canadian immgration act to prevent foreign visitors from attending such schools.

Parliament Approves Citizenship Amendment Bill
BK031153 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Dec 85

[Text] Parliament has passed the Citizenship Amendment Bill, providing that the people of Indian origin who came to Assam before 1 January 1966 be deemed to be Indian citizens . Those who came between 1 January 1966 and 25 March 1971 are to be disenfranchised for 10 years but they will continue to enjoy all other citizenship rights. The Rajya Sabha approved the bill today, which had already been passed by the Lok Sabha. An amendment moved by Mr S.C. Malviya, Lok Dal, was rejected.

Replying to the debate, the minister of state for home, Mr P.A. Sangma, said the government is committed to the all-round development of Assam and every provision of the Assam accord will be implemented in letter and spirit. He refuted the opposition charge that the bill takes away citizenship rights of any person.

The minister made it clear that, in fact, the bill seeks to confer citizenship rights on certain categories of persons specified in it.

Minister Notes Soviet Assistance in Oil
BK031151 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Dec 85

[Text] The Lok Sabha was told today that Soviet assistance been sought for oil exploration. The minister of state for petroleum, Mr Naval Kishore Sharma, said during question time that the government has decided to offer two areas to the Soviet Union for oil exploration and drilling in view of the growing needs of the country. He was replying to a question on Soviet assistance in reference to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

AFP: Pope Scheduled To Visit in February 1986
HK050422 Hong Kong AFP in English 0350 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 4 (AFP) — Pople John Paul Two will pay an 11-day visit to India from next February 1, official sources said here today. No further details were available.

New Gas Leak Reported at Delhi Food Factory
HK061010 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Dec 6 (AFP) — Gas leaked again today from the same food processing factory here where a similar accident Wednesday killed one person and sent thousands into a panic, police said.

No casualties were reported today and the leak was described as smaller than Wednesday's. Police said some panic had occurred as people nearby fled on seeing the gas cloud but the reaction [was] not as large scale as Wednesday's because the leak was stopped more quickly.

Fire Brigade spoesman M. Dera said the leak had been checked, but not before people around the factory complained of eye irritation and chest pain.

The leak was detected at 10:45 a.m. (0515 GMT) from a tank storing highly concentrated sulphuric acid in the plant owned by Sri Ram Food and Fertiliser Industries, police spokesman Ravi Pawar said.

The gas, sulphur trioxide, spread across the factory area in the thickly populated Western District, he said. Senior police officers went to investigate, and technicians were busy checking for further leaks, he said.

Mr Dera said the fire brigade was on alert for more leaks. He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the leak caused no injuries because "the quantity involved was less and we had taken prompt action."

Police said that 20 tonnes of the highly concentrated sulphuric acid was believed to be still in the tank.

Wednesday's leak occured when a 40-tonne tank containing the same type acid crashed after its supports corroded away. The acid gave off sulphur trioxide, which spread over a larger area than today's leak and prompted panic.

Zia Comments on SARC Before Leaving for Dhaka

BK060703 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed the hope that SARC summit will play a vital role in providing a foundation for establishing peace in the region. He was speaking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this morning before his departure to Dhaka.

The president will participate in the first summit of SARC countries in Dhaka begining tomorrow. He said besides bilateral relations, the decisions taken at the summit will be unanimous. He expressed the hope that the attitude of all the member nations, whether big or small, will be positive.

In reply to a question, the president said at present economic cooperation among member nations is quite reasonable. But, he said: I hope there will be many fold increase in it.

Among others, those present at the airport to see the president off were Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, National Assembly Speaker Syed Fakhr Imam, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Rahimuddin Khan, federal ministers, senators, National Assembly members, members of the diplomatic corps, and senior civil and military officials.

A Radio Pakistan representative says, after attending the 2-day SARC summit the president will stay in Bangladesh until Tuesday [10 December] and meet the leaders of the South Asian nations also. Later, the president will visit Sri Lanka from 10 to 14 December at the invitation of President Jayewardene. On 15 December, he will go to the Maldives which will be the first visit of any Pakistani head of state to this Muslim state. The president will fly to New Delhi on 17 December and will be back home on the same day.

NAWA-E WAQT on Geneva Summit, Afghan Issue

GF051806 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 28 Nov 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Afghan Issue — The Expectations of U.S. Circles"]

[Excerpts] U.S. officials in Washington have raised the hope that the Soviet Union seems willing to present a program for the phased and eventual withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan as a political solution of the Afghan issue. Such expectations stem from the recent Reagan-Gorbachev talks in Geneva and from the general feeling that the Soviet Union is becoming more irritated at the escalation of resistance in Afghanistan. A very indirect and cautious affirmation of this feeling could be detected in the televised interview by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz with NBC on the "Meet the Press" program. He was asked whether the Soviet leader had even hinted at any kind of gradual withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He answered: "I think something like this was mentioned, but we need to wait and see."

The omission of any such reference in the joint Reagan-Gorbachev communique and even of a casual allusion to the Afghan issue was noted by international media as well as by Pakistan. Following his meeting with President Reagan on the occasion of the 40th UN anniversary, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq was assured by the former that the Afghan issue would be broached at the negotiations. The fact that no such mention was made in the subsequent negotiations obviously caused a great deal of dismay and apprehension in Pakistan, which was justified. However, Mr Reagan reiterated on his return to Washington that the Afghan issue was discussed in his meeting with Gorbachev and that he got the impression that the Soviet Union desires a political solution under the aegis of the United Nations and is prepared to present a phased program for the return of its forces from Afghanistan.

The truth about the expectations which are being repeatedly expressed by U.S. circles will transpire by the end of December. The massive influx of Soviet troops into Afghanistan at the end of December 1979, even though Kabul government claims it was at their insistence for the alleged protection of its southern borders, the Soviet Union's expansionist designs, have endangered the security and territorial integrity of Iran and Pakistan and have created an atmosphere of instability in the region. It is for this reason that it is being said that the Afghan issue has become a new arena for the superpower tug-of-war, and its solution depends on comprehensive understanding between them on the international level.

Even though the Soviet Union deems indirect talks held under UN auspices as "a step in the right direction," and guarantees for the restitution of their nonaligned status, resolutions on nonintervention in Afghan affairs, and the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland have been formulated, the greatest obstacle to their implementation is the Soviet vacillation or refusal to present any concerted program for this purpose. Pakistan, Iran, the PRC, and the United States can provide the guarantees desired by the Soviet Union, but the United States' guarantee is conditional, depending on the schedule for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. Soviet leader Gorbachev's indication of his readiness for a program of Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, which can be considered an important step forward toward a political solution of the Afghan issue, and its repercussions as well as the hints being given out by U.S. circles following the superpower talks at Geneva will be verified at the next round of indirect talks in Geneva. If the hopes of the U.S. circles materialize, that is, if the Soviet Union presents a program for the gradual withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan, then the United States will not hesitate to provide the required guarantees of nonintervention.

In any case, facts will surface in a few weeks which will determine whether there is any reason for the U.S. optimism stemming from the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting and whether the Karmal government continues its insistence on direct talks with Pakistan — all of which will be apparent from the Karmal government's attitude.

SRI LANKA

Tamils Make Counterproposal Crisis Solution

HK051614 Hong Kong AFP in English 1551 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Madras, India, Dec 5 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's main Tamil political party, in a counter-proposal to Colombo's working paper on resolving the country's ethnic crisis, envisages a federal setup for the island republic with the northern and eastern provinces constituting one linguistic state for the Tamils.

Colombo's earlier proposals called for more autonomy in Tamil areas, but the six Tamil groups holding peace talks with Colombo in Bhutan in August rejected them outright as not going far enough.

The latest counter-proposal from the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) was made available to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in this southern Indian city Today.

Highly reliable sources said the TULF submitted the document to Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari in New Delhi on Tuesday.

They said that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would discuss the proposals with Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene when they meet over the weekend in Dhaka while attending the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SARC) summit there.

The sources said the main Tamil group, the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF) which groups four militant Tamil organisations, and the Peoples' Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), were not a party to the latest TULF proposals, but that the proposals had their "tacit acquiescence."

A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority has been waging a bloody campaign for a separate state in the north and east of the country, alleging discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

Under the provisions of the TULF'S proposals, Sri Lanka would remain a union of states with the northern and eastern provinces constituting one linguistic state for the Tamils.

While legislative powers of the union would be vested in parliament, members of parliament would reflect the country's ethnic proportion.

No bill or resolution affecting any nationality would be passed unless the majority of members of parliament belonging to that nationality agree to such bill or resolution, the document said.

"Provision shall be made in the Constitution to ensure that ethnic proportion is reflected in state services, including the armed forces. Each state will have its own public service commission," the document said.

All those not citizens of a foreign country and who were residents of Sri Lanka on November 1, 1981, and their descendants, would be deemed to be citizens of Sri Lanka.

On November 1, 1981, the Lal Bahadur Shastri-Srimavo Bandaranaike Pact on Repatriation of Tamils of Indian Origin came to an end, leaving over a 100,000 plantation labourers stateless.

Under the TULF's proposals, provision would also be made in the Constitution to make Tamil an official language along with Sinhala. The present Constitution confers official status to Sinhala only while Tamil is considered a "national" language, the document said.

Parliament would have exclusive powers to make laws with respect to central subjects such as defence, foreign affairs, customs duties.

Every state would have a governor who would be appointed by the president.

There would also be an elected assembly for each state, with the assemblies having exclusive powers to make laws for state subjects including law and order, land and all its uses, education including university and technical education, archaeology, agriculture, excise, health, prisons and reformatories.

Bills passed by the assemblies would be submitted to the governor for assent, the document said.

Executive powers of staff would be vested in the chief minister and his council of ministers. The governor would appoint the leader of the largest party as chief minister who would in turn appoint his council of ministers.

The state assembly would have powers to levy taxes and mobilize resources through grants and loans.

Before the TULF submitted these proposals, Mr. Jayewardene said in an official interview to the fortnightly magazine, *INDIA TODAY*, that Sri Lanka "cannot go beyond" the proposals contained in the earlier working paper.

All the Tamil groups, including the TULF, rejected that working paper outright as not meeting the minimum aspirations of the minority community, Tamil sources said.

Mr. Jayewardene has also said that unless a negotiated settlement was reached by the end of this month on the basis of the working paper, his government was prepared for a military solution to resolve the ethnic problem.

Sources also said that Mr. Jayewardene was planning to ask Mr. Gandhi during their meeting in Dhaka to extradite the Tamil militants from India.

Majlis Rejects Iran Role in Hostage Negotiations

LD051035 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, dec. 5, IRNA — Iran's Majlis (parliament) here Thursday announced that Iran will not host any negotiation concerning fate of the French hostages in Lebanon, the public relations office of the Majlis announced here Thursday. Rather, the statement added, France should try to solve the problems in the country where it has taken place — Lebanon.

The announcement was made following recent propaganda of the French mass media claiming that the reason for the visit of a French parliamentary delegation to Iran is to hold talks on French hostages in Lebanon.

It stressed that although Iran has repeatedy emphasised its strong opposition to kidnapping and any act of terrorism, however, for humanitarian reasons if it could it would not fall short of taking any measure to help solve such problems.

It further added that in the absence of any such invitation the Majlis was still ready to hold talks with the said French parliamentary delegation on mutual issues.

According to the statement, recently a French opposition party has expressed interest to dispatch a parliamentary delegation to Iran to discuss ways of improving strained relations between the two countries. The foreign relations committee of the Majlis has welcomed the travel of the French delegation to Iran, the announcement said.

Foreign Ministry Denies U.S. Claims on Executions

LD051601 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Thursday said U.S claims on Bahai's execution was "baseless and mere fabrication".

The U.S. State Department reported Tuesday the execution of a member of the Bahais by firing squad in Iran.

The spokesman stressed that no one is questioned for his religious beliefs in the Islamic Republic. "Such propaganda aim to denounce the Islamic Revolution and halt the interests of the oppressed nations in it" he said.

The spokesman said the U.S. has continued its hostile propaganda against Iran since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The Islamic Republic broke off diplomatic relations with the U.S. Government after the Islamic Revolution and followed an anti-aggressor policy.

Foreign Ministry spokesman termed the claims of the U.S. and the so-called human rights organizations as baseless and noted that the Islamic government does not discriminate on personal beliefs.

"Of course", the spokesman said, "we will decisively face those who aim to implement colonist goals and we shall not value the claims of those who support the Zionists".

Khomeyni Sends Letter on Corporal Punishment

LD031608 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Dec 85

[Excerpt] During the seventh joint session of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Majlis judicial and legal committee, held yesterday and attended by the head of the Supreme Court, the state prosecutor-general and other members of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Majlis Judicial Committee, in accordance with the imam's recent orders in reply to a letter from the Majlis Judicial Committee asking for his opinion regarding consistancy in corporal punishment, the limit of corporal punishment was discussed.

The imam's reply to the said letter states: While most of the judicial officials do not possess the religious qualifications for judges because of necessity, they do not have the authority to determine the limit of corporal punishment without the consent of a qualified jurisconsult. Therefore, a council should be formed comprising the head of the Supreme Court, the chairman of the Majlis Judicial Committee and two clerical members of the Guardians Council, selected by the clerical members of the Guardians Council, to determine the limit of corporal punishment, which should not be overstepped. Of course, this is a temporary measure, until. God willing, qualified judges are appointed.

Report on Khamene'i Talks With Syrian Prime Minister

LD040013 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Dec 85

[Text] Mr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, prime minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, met and had talks with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic, this morning. During the meeting, the prime minister of Syria, conveying the warm and fraternal greetings of Hafiz al-Asad, Syria's president, and of that country, said: We consider Iran's Islamic Revolution as our own and that of all the struggling nations challenging imperialism since this revolution was akin to a sun that began shining in a dark and black time. This revolution sallied forth at a time when there were a great many regimes nestling down in the bosom of imperialism, and thereby revived hopes in the hearts of all nations to the effect that Islam was solidly standing on its own feet and that the victory of righteousness was inevitable.

Then the president of the Republic, reciprocating by expressing thanks for the warm greetings of the Syrian president, referred to the importance of such meetings towards increasingly bringing the two countries closer to their goals and added: We look upon our ties with Syria in a strategic manner and deem the Palestine problem so important and sensitive that we are prepared to expand furhter our participation and relations with the State of Syria. We consider Iran to be a first class country in the ranks of the struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem and we desire to remain in the depth of the fronts of fighting against

Israel. The facts are precisely these because the United States' and world arrogance's offensive policy in the region is extremely serious; were it not confronted with seriousness, then arrogance would deliver its blow!

In another part of his speech, referring to the compromising moves by such subservient regimes as those of Egypt and Morocco towards serving U.S. goals, the president of the Republic then added: The U.S. policies and new tactics are tantamount to bringing pressure to bear on the progressive and advanced Arab countries and smashing the redoubts of struggle against arrogance. Our present mission dictates that through increasing cooperation with the progressive countries we should rise in struggle against this U.S. measure.

The president of the Republic added: Praise be to Allah! Today by confronting those plots particularly hatched against the Islamic Republic of Iran and intensified even more recently, we have been able to neutralize them. Therefore, our hope for a retreat by imperialism and the reaction front has been strengthened thanks to support from the vast and faithful popular forces. The stupendous human force is such that world arrogance is helpless in confronting it. You can see for yourselves a prominent example of this in Lebanon. The president of the Republic emphasized: Regarding Lebanon, we believe that the best strong arm and means for fighting and confronting Israel are exactly those faithful forces in the north and south. We feel that in a serious confrontation vis-a-vis the divisive policies of arrogance in Lebanon domestic clashes, which would ultimately end in an advantage for the Zionists, should be diverted outwards toward the struggle against the main enemy, that is, Israel!

At the conclusion of this meeting, the president of the Republic, expressing the hope for decisive reaction by Syria vis-a-vis usurping Israel and the wish for a final victory in this hard but blessed jihad, added: Kindly inform Mr Hafiz Al-Asad, the president of Syria, on my behalf that we do not recognize anyone but you among the frontline countries of steadfastness and confrontation against Israel and that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Libya are both prepared to uphold and heighten your dignity and resistance in the confrontation against Israel and cooperate with and back you towards this end since we sense the need for a new offensive move to be adopted by the progressive wing against the compromising wing and believe that, thanks to such a move, public opinion in the Islamic and Arab world will not lose the hope of the liberation of Palestine!

Musavi Says Poor Strength of Islamic Revolution

LD051748 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec 5 IRNA — Prime Minister Musavi said Thursday that Iran's deprived were responsible for the progress of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

"The revolution is withstanding the pressure of the arrogant foreign powers because of the people's belief in Islam," he said.

The prime minister was addressing workers from the Marv Dasht flour plant including members of their Islamic associations.

He said that people's political awareness had secured the revolution while foreign arrogant powers took advantage of people's ignorance to exploit them.

The Islamic Republic propagates a policy of resistance against arrogant world powers including colonialists and imperialists.

The prime minister said that the Islamic Republic did not enjoy any sort of aid from the superpowers, neither political, military, financial, economic and propagational.

"This is a sign of greatness of the revolution and its leadership capability," he said.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is lead by Imam Khomeyni who calls for the revival of Islam as a political force in the modern world.

Musavi emphasised that although Iran "naturally" had problems because of the war with Iraq, it "believed that freedom and independence will be gained through the very difficulties".

Marv Dasht representatives in Majlis (parliament) Ahmad Kabiri and worker's deputy briefed the prime minister on the situations of the plant.

The worker's donated rials four million (dollars 47,000) to Musavi for the war effort.

Musavi Interviewed on Cabinet Session, Human Rights

LD041403 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Interview by unidentified correspondent with Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi in Tehran on 4 December — recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr prime minister, would you please explain what were the main issues raised during today's session of the Cabinet?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During this meeting, in addition to the reports given on political matters and the news, the issue of the governorate of West Azarbayjan was raised. Our brother Reza'i, who has a very clear and strong record in eastern Azarbayjan and Ilam, was elected unanimously by the Cabinet to the post of governor-general of West Azarbayjan province. It was agreed to recommend him for the position and his appointment will be communicated to him.

We had another discussion about conspiracies hatched against our country in order to undermine the influence of the Islamic revolution by presenting an ugly picture of the Islamic Republic. Among these are the activities of the Human Rights Committee and of Amnesty International, which are usually backed by international Zionists. They have organized vast activities against us. As the imam of the ummah graciously said, the opponents of the government, the hypocrites and the monarchists, all mortal enemies of the revolution, murderers, and those who are given refuge and support by the United States and

France and other major powers are fed by them and are used as a tool for exerting pressure on the Islamic Republic. Of course, their dreams are futile.

It is said in this connection that the government is not able to expose them, that is, by raising this issue in the world the United States and France and other major powers cover up their own crimes. We cannot show the world how the rights of Muslims [in the] south of France are trampled under foot and how the freedom-seeking people of the world are trampled and crushed under their bloody jackboots. Under such circumstances, why is a country which is fighting against the United States and imperialism subjected to accusations? I think that by raising this question properly, we can find an answer.

However, this issue must be exposed regularly. We are aware that we have been subjected to their aggression because of our anti-apartheid, anti-South African, anti-Zionist and anti-American policies; and it is natural, the government's policy, derived from the high aspirations of our people's warm blood under the imam's leadership, should ignore such judgements and I hereby announce that the Government's policy will remain the same, that is, any move which might threaten the system will be crushed.

We cannot take any notice of international judgements in this connection; and we shall never allow such judgements to harm the interests of the Islamic Republic. At the same time, the problem exists and the various organs of the Islamic Revolution should make greater efforts to expose the filthy nature of the systems which wait in ambush behind the international organizations to harm our revolution.

This issue was raised and we agreed to work on it. We came to some very desirable conclusions about creating coordination among various organs. I would like to say briefly that, without doubt, there is no possibility of the slightest leniency on our behalf in this connection. We are proud of our work and there is nothing to hide from the world public. At the same time, we would like to expose the nature of these organizations and their activities to nations of the Third World and to the Islamic nations. We must make this clear and make the people of the world understand.

My attention is focussed on the 1 billion-strong Islamic society. We must make them understand how a political Zionist sect, which started its conspiracies and espionage work during the past 100-150 years for the foreign countries and particularly for Britain, and later on for Israel after its establishment, is receiving support. We must show the nature of their belief, and whether their approach in our country has a religious or a political nature. I believe it has a political nature and we shall stand against any such move. For us, the only sacred goal is the independence and freedom of the Islamic Republic.

[Question] Mr Musavi, in view of your remarks on human rights and possible connections with the activities aimed at undermining the achievements of the Islamic Republic, what you think is the enemy's objective and why is he raising this issue at this particular time?

[Answer] In general, I think they have given up hope of being able to defeat us politically and economically or on the battlefields. Naturally, they are now thinking of their next step: creating some sort of pessimism among the Islamic nations. Our most important weapon in the world, and particularly in connection with our foreign policy, is the love of the oppressed nations of the world, especially the Islamic nations, for the Islamic Revolution. If they were to succeed in depicting us as a tyrannic, undesirable, suppressive, and murderous regime which executes pregnant women by tearing their wombs open and other such false claims, then naturally reaction in the world would not benefit us and our influence would weaken.

I believe that our mass media, the government itself, and our systems should expose the nature of the opponents by showing how these individuals, whose leaders do not even leave their friends' wives alone, murder people in city streets. Our mass media, by exposing those isolated individuals who were crushed, lost their prestige, and who are incapable of facing our combative forces in the military and political arenas and have therefore resorted to blind assassinations, can demonstrate how these individuals have become a tool in the hands of the superpowers for putting pressure on us. By doing so and by exposing these tools of colonialism, the propaganda of these individuals will be foiled. This is one of the policies that we should follow.

We should also expand our links with the friendly countries and their nations. Right from the start of the revolution, we have been thinking of winning world public opinion, particularly by addressing the oppressed nations. The enemy is also trying to address these nations and turn them against us. We should have these nations in mind, for our words will be heard by many when we talk of our stance, our freedom, and our struggle against the United States all over the world by presenting the United States as the arch-satan. We should ignore these enemies and their resolutions. Let them issue as many resolutions as they wish. Never mind whether they wish to condemn us or not; any measure they take against us will prove our righteous stance.

Message Sent to Ghana on Expulsion of U.S. Diplomats

LD042245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Text] Following the expulsion of several U.S. spy diplomats from Ghana, a message was sent by Foreign Minister Velayati to the foreign minister of the Republic of Ghana. Part of this message, while expressing the full support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the appropriate and worthy steps taken by the revolutionary Government of Ghana to neutralize the U.S. Government's misuse of its embassies to influence and further its aggressive policies, calls on the countries of the Third World, especially African countries, to emulate this revolutionary measure.

Foreign Ministry's Besharati Visits Kenya, Tanzania

LD051906 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA — Iran's Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati met first deputy of Kenyan Foreign Ministry Tuesday, in Nairobi.

In the meeting, Behsarati briefed the Kenyan minister on the Islamic Revolution's foreign policy especially the expansion of relations with Third World and African countries.

The Kenyan deputy foreign minister announced his coutnry's willingness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic.

Later Tuesday, Besharati flew to Dar es Salaam and was welcomed by deputy foreign minister of Tanzania.

Besharati met and conferred Wednesday with Foreign Minister of Tanzania Benjamin Mkaba who lauded the Islamic revolution because of "its firm position against imperialism" and its development, despite the Iraqi imposed-war.

In the meeting mutual friendly relations were stressed and the both sides emphasised on further expansion of bilateral cooperation.

Meets Tanzanian President

LD051913 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA — Iran's acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati met Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi in Dodoma Thursday and gave him a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i.

In the meeting Besharati congratulated President Mwinyi on his election.

The Tanzanian president praised the Islamic Revolution as well as its leader Imam Khomeyni and said "We have always respected the Islamic Revolution for its policies".

President Mwinyi termed the Iranian friendship as valuable and said this friendship will expand.

The president noted that although Iran is involved in a defensive war against the Iraqi regime it continues to help other countries.

Petroleum Minister Leaves for Geneva OPEC Meeting

LD042155 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA — Iran's oil minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh left here for Geneva Wednesday to participate in an OPEC meeting due to be held there on 7 December.

Two Majlis deputies as well as Oil Ministry advisors are accompanying the oil minister in his Geneva visit.

Council of Guardians Appoints Secretaries, Spokesman

LD041444 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Excerpts] In its sessions yesterday and today, the Council of Guardians approved a bill authorizing the payment of development project commitments for the years 1352-1863 [21 March 1973-20 March 1985] that was itself approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly on 26 November 1985, and also approved a bill on the collection of taxes from those participating in group tourist trips or pilgrimage tours to foreign countries. The latter bill was approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly on 24 November 1985, following amendments made in accordance with the views expressed by the Council of Guardians. The Islamic Consultative Assembly was informed of the incompatibility of parts of the bills with the Constitution. [as heard]

Also in today's session, elections were held for the appointment of secretary, acting secretary, and spokesman of the Council of Guardians. In a unanimous vote, Ayatollah Safi was appointed secretary; Hoseyn Mehrpur, acting secretary; and Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani, spokesman of the Council of Guardians until the end of its first 6-year term.

Vetoes Press Bill

LD052124 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA — the Council of Guardians which supervises the implementation of the Constitution has vetoed the Press Bill. But the Council Thursday [5 December] sent a letter to the Majlis (Parliament) suggesting several revisions.

The guardians said the bill contradicted the Islamic Canon, freedom of the press and the Constitution on nine counts.

The Press Bill was passed by the Majlis 5 November but needed the approval of the Council before becoming law.

Tehran daily *ABRAR* welcomed the rejection and said the approval of the bill would not have solved any problems for the press but would have only increased its bonds. The present bill the paper said would have decreased the activities of the journalists and would have emptied the press from content.

The press law states the conditions for receiving publication permit for periodicals as well as the responsibilities of the press supervisory committee.

Majlis debates on the bill during the month of October were overshadowed by discussions on the appointment of the Cabinet.

Meanwhile it was reported that Ayatollah Emami-Kashani has been chosen as the spokesman for the Council until the end of its first six year course.

The Council consists of six religious lawyers appointed by the leader of the country and six lawyers appointed by the High Judiciary Council and approved by the Majlis.

Defense Minister Speaks at Arms Factory Opening

LD051923 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Esfahan, Esfahan Prov. Dec. 5, IRNA — The first Iranian factory producing 23-mm bullets started work Thursday in Esfahan.

In the inauguration ceremony Defence Minister Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali said that "Every step in improving the defence industries is a dagger in the heart of the U.S. and Iran's enemies."

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been fighting Iraq for five years and says it will win the war without the help of foreign powers.

Iraq has the military support of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Jalali said that the 23-mm bullets will be used to bring down Iraqi planes and destroy their armoured vehicles.

A group of war-disabled veterans work in the factory. Defence minister told them that they are the hopes of country and play a significant role in the factory." [no opening quotation marks as received]

Jalali said that the Islamic Republic will continue her way with "God's help and the backing of the nation, and will surely achieve its objective."

IRNA Rejects INA Claim of POW Maltreatment

LD282013 Tehran IRNA in English 1902 GMT 28 Nov 85

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA — Iraq's state news agency (INA) claimed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not allowed Andres Aguilar, the special envoy of the United Nations' director-general, to visit Iran in order to report on the conditions of Iraqi POW's here.

INA also asserted that *NEW YORK TIMES* daily has reported on the matter in its Monday issue, but there were no such report in the *NEW YORK TIMES*.

The U.N. officials have recently published a report denying Iraq's allegation on mistreatment of the Iraqi POW's in Iran.

Now Iraq strives for any opportunity to claim that the Islamic Republic of Iran mistreates the Iraqi POW's.

Navy Commander on Maneuvers, Naval Industries

GF051008 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] In an interview with an IRNA correspondent on naval maneuvers held by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the northern part of the Persian Gulf, Captain Melekzadegan, commander of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: These maneuvers were a continuation of the main maneuvers held in the Strait of Hormuz. Several rocket-launching gunboats and navy helicopters took part. They took pocession of predetermined targets in the least possible time or achieved direct hits.

Concerning the preparedness of the second Bushehr Zone Naval Force, the navy commander said: Several naval missions were entrusted to the Second Zone Naval Force. Several times during the course of the imposed war, units of this force confronted the Ba'thist enemy and created several epics.

Concerning the progress of naval industrial factories, the commander of the naval forces said: In the past, several foreign technicians used to run these factories. To cut this dependence, currently all operations are under the supervision of Iranian specialists.

Referring to the fact that various complicated systems, such as gyro and radar systems, are repaired at these factories, he stated that big steps have been taken along the line of the self-sufficiency crusade. He added: In the near future, we will be self-sufficient in preparing floating units and doings repairs on rocket launching gunboats.

Concering the future of his naval forces, the commander of the navy said: We plan to maintain naval superiority.

Based on the same report, the head of the naval industry factories, referring to the operations of these factories, also said: We have been able to make parts for machines in the factories of the naval industries, which has made us less dependent on foreign products. He added: For example, we have made a kind of gyro for [word indistinct], which is most effective in warfare.

In conclusion he added: Similarly, these factories have made it possible for us not to need foreign devices for controlling enemy fire [as heard] and foreign-made radar.

Karbala Marchers Send 13 Divisions to Front

LD041822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Text] Continuing the welcome given by our people throughout the country to the convoys of Karbala Marchers during ceremonies held in Shiraz this morning, a convoy comprising 11 divisions of popular forces left for the battlefronts. During the ceremonies Mohsen Reza'i, Commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], in a speech referring to the new initiative of organizing the convoy of Karbala marchers, declared: Fars today can boast of the largest number of troops dispatched to the fronts in any part of the country. During the same ceremonies, the commander of the IRGC, Fars Region, referring to the fact that the convoy of Karbala marchers from Fars constitutes an entirely popular movement, declared: The convoy's fighting power amounts to 11 divisions; accompanying our dear ones more than 500 truckloads of presents from the population of Fars are leaving for the fronts. He then referred to the Karbala marchers as the genuine conquerors of Jerusalem and said: Because of the large number of the volunteers for the convoy and the overflowing reception capacity for them, it is planned to organize a Karbala-II convoy from Fars Province and to dispatch it at a future date.

A central News Unit report from Esfahan says: The convoy of Karbala marchers from Esfahan Province, comprising two fighting divisions composed of the combatants from the province's mobilization bases and more than 500 jihad wagers, support troops and clergymen, together with assistance presented by

Esfahan Province's population totaling some 1 billion rials carried by 500 trucks, including several trailers and trucks and 100 minivans, left for the battlefronts this afternoon after ceremonies attended by a vast number of people from various strata. The marchers were given a warm sendoff. Following the departure of the convoy of Karbala marchers for the war zones, Friday Imam Hojjat ol-Eslam Darvishi; the governor; and a group of officials from the provincial city of Kahnuj, together with 300 volunteer combatants joined the convoy of Karbala marchers.

The convoy of Karbala marchers from Western Azarbayjan Province left for the battlefronts of good against evil this morning amid a warm sendoff from the people of Orumiyeh. The convoy is carrying 50 million rials worth of assistance given by the people of Western Azarbayjan Province, transported by 57 trucks and dispatched to the fronts.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,310

LD051558 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants Thursday controlled the movements of Iraqi artillery units, and armoured forces as well as their construction of fortifications near Kani-Sheykh in western fronts, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Thursday.

In its Communique Number 2310, the command said that nine Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least seven Iraqi bunkers demolished during the artillery duels in Helaleh region.

In the south after a two-hour clash, Muslim combatants forced four Iraqi motor boats approaching Iranian positions to flee near Majnun southern island, said the communique.

In western fronts Iraqi command outposts were shelled by Muslim defenders inflicting heavy damages and casualties on the enemy forces, the communique said.

In the Arvand River area, Iran's Gendarmerie forces responded to the Iraqi artillery fire by shelling their positions and slowed their movements, said the command.

Iraqi sporadic artillery fire on the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province caused no damages, the communique concluded.

Soviet-DRA Forces Killed by Rebels in Afghanistan

LD041645 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 4 Dec 85

[Text] London, Dec 4, IRNA — Afghan mujahidin launched a rocket attack killing 16 joint Soviet and government soldiers and capturing 13 others, in Dand area on the outskirts of Qandahar city, reported AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS, Wednesday.

The operation took place on November 18, during which an ammunition truck was destroyed, causing a violent explosion, and killing government soldiers on the spot, said the reports.

Meanwhile Vice Premier Guldad, belonging to the Khalq party has been replaced by a Parcham party member, an indication of the internal strife between the two factions of the ruling communist regime.

According to Radio Kabul, the new vice premier is Muhammad Huseyn, who is an official of Parcham, to which Babrak Karmal also belongs.

Fierce Fighting Continues

GF051816 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] Fierce battles continue to rage between the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries and the invading Soviet forces and Karmal forces in the provinces of Kabul, Qandahar, Ghazni, and Oruzgan.

Citing Afghan Muslim revolutionaries sources, the Central News Unit reports that the Soviet forces stationed in southeastern Qandahar — which mounted an attack on the Muslim revolutionaries last week — are facing violent resistance by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries. The Muslim revolutionaries have succeeded so far in downing eight fighters belonging to the Soviet forces and in destroying five tanks, in addition to killing and wounding many of the joint Soviet and Afghan Government forces.

Violent battles are still raging in the region of (Daod), in Oruzgan Province; in the Qarah Bagh region, in Ghazni Province; and in the region of Musa Qal'eh, in Halmend Province; in addition to the regions of Shindand, Panjshir, and Kabul. No further details are available on the size of the losses inflicted on the joint forces.

Reports from Afghanistan indicate that the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries killed a number of the Soviet occupation forces, including three senior Soviet officers, in Parvan Province. Also, in the same province, all the occupants of a Soviet military vehicle were killed when it ran over a mine planted by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.